

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The value of a rupee, measured as a reciprocal of consumer price index (CPI) for industrial workers treating 1971 as base year, was 17 pause in December 1991 (latest available).

Operation of SBI Factors and Commercial Services Limited

1642. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the operation of SBI Factors and Commercial Services Limited throughout the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that at present there is no proposal to extend the operations of SBI Factors and Commercial Services Pvt. Limited throughout the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With a view to ensure efficiency and economy of operations, SBI Factors and Commercial Services Pvt. Limited proposes to operate in the Western Zone for the time being.

Survey on Problems of Handloom Weavers in Maharashtra

1643. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any survey about the problems of handloom weavers in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major problem experienced by the handloom weavers in the country including Maharashtra is the high yarn prices. Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State sector and cooperative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The National Textile Corporation (NTC) has been asked to readjust their production plan to augment production of hank yarn of 40s and below where the price rise has affected the handloom weavers the most. NHDC also advised to augment yarn supplies. The Chief Ministers of States have been requested to monitor the production of yarn by Cooperative/State sector mills, and to hold regular State Level reviews regarding supply, prices and distribution of hank yarn. The Chief Ministers have also been advised to impress upon the District Collectors to organise regular checking of the stocks and selling prices of yarn dealers in the districts, with a view to prevent hoarding of yarn.

Promotion of Managers in MMTC

1644. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 point roster for promotion of Managers has been discontinued by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any clarification was sought from Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Reservation orders and 40% roster system are not applicable for promotion of Managers to senior levels in MMTC.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Export of Tea

1645. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of tea has declined during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether the Government have adopted some new measures to increase the export of tea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when these new measures are proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). From provisional information which is available, there has been no decline in the quantity of tea exported between April, 1991 to January, 1992 as compared to the period April, 1990 to January, 1991.

(c) & (d). With a view to boost up our exports of tea, the Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaigns have been launched in UK in order to get the upper and of the market. Industry delegations have also been permitted to visit various foreign countries to develop international markets. Some of these delegations have also been led by senior officers from the Tea Board. Apart from this, financial incentives by way of excise duty refund, reduction in import duty on tea bagging machinery, exemption of export profits from income tax are already available.

Export of Video Games

1646. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to export Video games to Russia;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the value of the export of Video games for which agreement is proposed to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). There is no specific proposal to export video games to the Russian Federation by the Government as per the Trade Protocol, 1992 signed between the two countries.

Bharat Electronics Limited Unit at Kakanad

1647. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to establish a plant of Bharat Electronics Limited at Kakanad in Kerala for the production of equipment for naval physical oceanography Laboratory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). Bharat Electronics Limited proposes to set up a Service Centre at NPOL, Cochin, for the maintenance and calibration of underwater transducers.

Acquisition of land for Defence Factories in Andhra Pradesh

1648. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: